

## Buying Power Loss Measures Inflation

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL  
Assemblyman, 46th District  
Inflation in very simple terms is the reduction in the buying power of the dollar. The number of dollars a wage-earner takes home is not as important as what he can buy with each of those dollars. If a wage-earner earns \$100 per week (take-home-pay) this year and can buy a pound of butter for 50 cents, but next year receives \$125 per week (take-home-pay) and must pay \$1 for a pound of butter, his wages have apparently increased 25 per cent, but in buying butter the value of his dollar has been cut in half.

During the past year, more than 90 per cent of my mail has been from women. About 55 per cent of them seem to believe that reducing taxation would decrease inflation, although they do not agree as to how this can be accomplished. About 12 per cent indicate that inflation might be curtailed by eliminating those who chisel (cheat) in receiving welfare funds, especially under the "Aid-to-Needy-Children Program." About 33 per cent believe that the United States should drastically reduce its foreign aid program, especially to those nations which are not 100 per cent friendly to the United States. This adds up to 100 per cent, but it must be added that we are counting only those who wrote to me about curbing inflation. Many women wrote to me about other subjects.

SINCE LESS than 10 per cent of my mail has been from men, it is difficult to arrive at any definite conclusion about the attitude of people in general unless it is recognized that women are more inclined to write letters than men. However, 42 per cent of the men who wrote about inflation believe that cutting taxes would decrease inflation.

When it comes to reducing welfare spending, especially in those areas where there are reports of cheating, 17 per cent of the men believe that this is the most important way to stop inflation.

HOWEVER, almost 20 per cent of the men who wrote to me about stopping inflation believe that the best method is to drastically reduce foreign aid to nations not entirely friendly to the United States. About 21 per cent offer a wide variety of suggestions, such as reducing expenditures for national defense, requiring

a 44-hour working week, lowering the tariff on goods imported from foreign countries, etc.

Again, it must be emphasized that men, like women, wrote many letters which had nothing to do with inflation. It is difficult to draw any valid, general conclusion because of the wide variety of responses.

DISREGARDING the opinions on inflation reported above, it is refreshing to report that more than 90 per cent of my mail from both men and women expresses in one form or another the following basic beliefs:

City and county government, and local school boards, should be given more power. The United States and the State of California should exercise less control over local government so that government is brought closer to the people, thus making it easier for each citizen to attend meetings and participate in influencing decisions which affect his life and the lives of his children.

All government, whether it is federal, state, county, or city, should be limited to doing only those things which the individual citizen cannot do for himself and by himself. In other words, people want the freedom of opportunity to get rich or go broke. They want the right to make their own decisions, even though they may not be the decisions that some public official thinks they should make.

THE PHRASE "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" means nothing if the individual citizen is deprived of his property through heavy taxes, inflation, or too much government control.

Finally, much to my surprise, very few letters I receive quote directly from the speeches and writings of Abraham Lincoln, but many people of both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party quote Thomas Jefferson, who said:

"That government is best which governs least." They interpret this to mean that as the power of government increases, the citizens lose their liberties. Whether these statements of ideals are consistent with the mail I received on inflation or not, they do reflect the opinions of the overwhelming majority of those who wrote to me during the past year.

## Polio Shots Set April 27 In Torrance

Polio vaccine shots at \$1 each will be given in Torrance, Friday, April 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at St. Philomena School, 21832 S. Main St.

Sponsoring the community service event are members of St. Philomena School in cooperation with the March of Dimes.

Mrs. Ellen Hamryak, chairman of the project, urged parents to protect children and themselves against paralytic polio before the high incidence season in late summer and early fall.

Last year children under 10 years of age accounted for 60 per cent of all paralytic polio cases in Los Angeles County, it was pointed out. Three properly spaced shots are needed for complete protection, with annual booster shots recommended.

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